

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 14, 21, 30 and 36 as follows:

Sub
1. (Six Times Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus for forming an image on a recording medium comprising a plurality of ink discharge means and a plurality of ink discharge openings and containing a plurality of inks, wherein the plurality of inks is discharged from the plurality of ink discharge openings by driving the ink discharge means, each ink having a penetrability, a dye density and a color;

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said plural ink discharge openings corresponding to a plurality of inks with different dye densities, wherein the penetrabilities of inks having different dye densities and same colors are different from each other and ink having low dye density among the plurality of inks of different dye densities and same colors has more penetrability with respect to the recording medium than ink having high dye density;

and wherein said plurality of inks contain different component ratios of a surface active component, wherein an ink having a relatively high dye density has a lower component ratio of said surface active component than an ink having a relatively low dye density.

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said apparatus further comprising control means for performing gradational recording by controlling discharge of each of the plurality of inks with different dye densities based on an inputted multiple value.

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14. (Five Times Amended) An ink-jet recording method for forming an image on a recording medium comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of inks, each having a penetrability, a dye density and a color;

providing a recording medium;

providing a plurality of ink discharge openings and a plurality of ink discharge means;

discharging onto the recording medium the plurality of inks from the plurality of ink discharge openings by driving the ink discharge means;

said plurality of ink discharge openings corresponding to a plurality of inks with different dye densities, wherein the penetrabilities of inks having different dye densities and same colors are different from each other, and ink having low dye density among the plurality of inks of different dye densities and same colors has more penetrability with respect to the recording medium than ink having high dye density;

wherein said plurality of inks contain different component ratios of a surface active component, wherein an

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ink having a relatively high dye density has a lower component ratio of said surface active component than an ink having a relatively low dye density; [and]

performing gradational recording by controlling discharge of each of the plurality of inks with different dye densities based on an inputted multiple value; and forming an image on the recording medium.

Sub B
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21. (Six Times Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus, comprising a recording head equipped with a plurality of ink discharge means, and a plurality of discharge ports and containing a plurality of inks, wherein the plural discharge ports of said recording head are comprised of a plurality of discharge port trains corresponding to the plurality of inks, wherein the plurality of inks is discharged onto a recording medium to form an image, each of the plurality of inks having a penetrability, a color and a different dye density, wherein the penetrabilities of inks having different dye densities and same colors are different from each other and ink having low dye density among the plurality of inks of different dye densities and same colors has more penetrability with respect to the recording medium than ink having high dye density; and wherein said plurality of inks contain different component ratios of a surface active component, wherein an ink having a relatively high dye density has a

lower component ratio of said surface active component than an ink having a relatively low dye density.

*H3
Concl'd*

said apparatus further comprising control means for performing gradational recording by controlling discharge of each of the plurality of inks with different dye densities based on an inputted multiple value.

*H4
Cont*

30. (Six Times Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus, comprising a plurality of recording heads equipped with a plurality of ink discharge means and a plurality of discharge ports and containing a plurality of inks, wherein said plural recording heads correspond to the plurality of inks, each ink having a penetrability, a color and a different dye density, wherein the plurality of inks is discharged onto a recording medium to form an image, and wherein the penetrabilities of inks having different dye densities and same colors are different from each other and ink having low dye density among the plurality of inks of different dye densities and same colors has more penetrability with respect to the recording medium than ink having high dye density;

and wherein said plurality of inks contain different component ratios of a surface active component, wherein an ink having a relatively high dye density has a lower component ratio of said surface active component than an ink having a relatively low dye density.

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said apparatus further comprising control means for performing gradational recording by controlling discharge of each of the plurality of inks with different dye densities based on an inputted multiple value.

HS

36. (Four Times Amended) A recorded article comprising a recording medium and a plurality of inks adhering thereto, each of said plurality of inks having a dye density, a color and a penetrability with respect to the recording medium, wherein, of said plurality of inks, inks having different dye densities and same colors have different penetrabilities from each other and ink having low dye density has more penetrability with respect to the recording medium than ink having high dye density;

[and] wherein said plurality of inks contain different component ratios of a surface active component, wherein an ink having a relatively high dye density has a lower component ratio of said surface active component than an ink having a relatively low dye density; and

wherein said recorded article is recorded by gradational recording performed by controlling discharge of each of the plurality of inks with different dye densities based on an inputted multiple value.